Damage to roads in Bihar and UP by floods

† 4256. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding damage caused by floods to the State roads and National Highways in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken to initiate repair and revival work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (a) to (c): This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only. Development of all other roads fall within the purview of the respective State Government. Damages to some National Highways due to floods have been reported from the States of U.P. and Bihar. Based on preliminary assessment, funds to the tune of Rs. 3 crore to the State of U.P. and Rs. 2 crore to the State of Bihar have already been released for carrying out emergent repairs on the National Highways.

Alternative road to Ladakh Region

4257. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that another alternative road to Ladakh region is under consideration from Darch in Himachal to Padum to Zanskar and then to Leh; and

(b) if so, the estimated cost that would be incurred in building the same and by when the proposed project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) The technical feasibility for constructing an alternate route to Ladakh region from Darcha in Himachal Pradesh *via* Padamto Nimu has been conveyed by Border Roads Organisation to Army Headquarters for their consideration.

(b) It is too early at this stage to indicate probable cost and date of completion of this road.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.